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## LIFE SENTENCE



### Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade; states can ban abortion

Demonstrators protest about abortion outside the Supreme Court in Washington, Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Friday stripped away the nation's constitutional protections for abortion that had stood for nearly a half-century. The decision by the court's conservative majority overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling and is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

The ruling, unthinkable just a few

years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump. Both sides predicted the fight over abortion would continue, in state capitals, in Washington and at the ballot box. Justice Clarence Thomas, part of Friday's majority, urged colleagues to overturn other high court rulings protecting same-sex

marriage, gay sex and the use of contraceptives.

Pregnant women considering abortions already had been dealing with a near-complete ban in Oklahoma and a prohibition after roughly six weeks in Texas. Clinics in at least five other states — Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin and West Virginia — stopped performing abortions after Friday's decision.

Abortion foes cheered the ruling,

but abortion-rights supporters, including President Joe Biden, expressed dismay and pledged to fight to restore the rights.

"It's a sad day for the court and for the country," Biden said at the White House. He urged voters to make it a defining issue in the November elections, declaring, "This decision must not be the final word."

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## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:  
TICO KOCK  
STEEL DRUM  
4 - 6pm

MONDAY:  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:  
JEAN PAUL  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:  
CARLOS ORLATE  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:  
MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:  
RICKY THOMAS  
GUITAR  
7 - 9pm

SATURDAY:  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour  
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

PREMIUM  
BRANDS  
★★

KARAOKE  
HAPPY HOUR  
9:00 - 11:00pm

costa linda beach resort

WATER'S EDGE  
RESTAURANT & BAR

# Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade; states can ban abortion

Continued from Front

Outside the White House, Ansley Cole, a college student from Atlanta, said she was "scared because what are they going to come after next? ... The next election cycle is going to be brutal, like it's terrifying. And if they're going to do this, again, what's next?"

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of SBA Pro-Life America, agreed about the political stakes.

"We are ready to go on offense for life in every single one of those legislative bodies, in each statehouse and the White House," Dannenfelser said in a statement.

Trump praised the ruling, telling Fox News that it "will work out for everybody."

The decision is expected to disproportionately affect minority women who already face limited access to health care, according to statistics analyzed by The Associated Press.

It also puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls.

Surveys conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and others have shown a majority in favor of abortion being legal in all or most circumstances. But many also support restrictions especially later in pregnancy. Surveys consistently show that about 1 in 10 Americans want abortion to be illegal in all cases. The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step.

Alito, in the final opinion issued Friday, wrote that Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion, were wrong had to be overturned.

"We therefore hold that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people



Abortion right activists gather outside the Supreme Court in Washington, Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

and their elected representatives," Alito wrote, in an opinion that was very similar to the leaked draft.

Joining Alito were Thomas and Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett. The latter three justices are Trump appointees. Thomas first voted to overturn Roe 30 years ago. Four justices would have left Roe and Casey in place.

The vote was 6-3 to uphold the Mississippi law, but Chief Justice John Roberts didn't join his conservative colleagues in overturning Roe. He wrote that there was no need to overturn the broad precedents to rule in Mississippi's favor.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — the diminished liberal wing of the court — were in dissent.

"With sorrow—for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent," they wrote, warning that abortion opponents now could pursue a nationwide ban "from the moment of conception and without exceptions for rape or incest."

Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement that the Justice Department will protect providers and those seeking abortions in states where it

is legal and also "work with other arms of the federal government that seek to use their lawful authorities to protect and preserve access to reproductive care."

In particular, Garland said that the federal Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of Mifepristone for medication abortions.

More than 90% of abortions take place in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy, and more than half are now done with pills, not surgery, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

Mississippi's only abortion clinic, which was at the center of Friday's case, continued to see patients Friday. Outside, men used a bullhorn to tell people inside that they would burn in hell. Clinic escorts wearing colorful vests used large speakers to blast Tom Petty's "I Won't Back Down" at the protesters.

Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Missouri are among 13 states, mainly in the South and Midwest, that already have laws on the books to ban abortion in the event Roe was overturned. Another half-dozen states have near-total bans or prohibitions after 6 weeks of pregnancy, before many women know

they are pregnant. In roughly a half-dozen other states, including West Virginia and Wisconsin, the fight will be over dormant abortion bans that were enacted before Roe was decided in 1973 or new proposals to sharply limit when abortions can be performed, according to Guttmacher.

Outside the barricaded Supreme Court, a crowd of mostly young women grew into the hundreds within hours of the decision. Some shouted, "The Supreme Court is illegitimate," while waves of others, wearing red shirts with "The Pro-Life Generation Votes," celebrated, danced and thrust their arms into the air.

The Biden administration and other defenders of abortion rights have warned that a decision overturning Roe also would threaten other high court decisions in favor of gay rights and even potentially contraception.

The liberal justices made the same point in their joint dissent: The majority "eliminates a 50-year-old constitutional right that safeguards women's freedom and equal station. It breaches a core rule-of-law principle, designed to promote constancy in the law. In doing all of that, it places in jeopardy other rights, from contraception

to same-sex intimacy and marriage. And finally, it undermines the Court's legitimacy."

And Thomas, the member of the court most open to jettisoning prior decisions, wrote a separate opinion in which he explicitly called on his colleagues to put the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage, gay sex and contraception cases on the table.

But Alito contended that his analysis addresses abortion only. "Nothing in this opinion should be understood to cast doubt on precedents that do not concern abortion," he wrote.

Whatever the intentions of the person who leaked Alito's draft opinion, the conservatives held firm in overturning Roe and Casey.

In his opinion, Alito dismissed the arguments in favor of retaining the two decisions, including that multiple generations of American women have partly relied on the right to abortion to gain economic and political power.

Changing the makeup of the court has been central to the anti-abortion side's strategy, as the dissenters archly noted. "The Court reverses course today for one reason and one reason only: because the composition of this Court has changed," the liberal justices wrote.

Mississippi and its allies made increasingly aggressive arguments as the case developed, and two high-court defenders of abortion rights retired or died. The state initially argued that its law could be upheld without overruling the court's abortion precedents.

Justice Anthony Kennedy retired shortly after the Mississippi law took effect in 2018 and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died in September 2020. Both had been members of a five-justice majority that was mainly protective of abortion rights.

In their Senate hearings, Trump's three high-court picks carefully skirted questions about how they would vote in any cases, including about abortion. □

## Airlines aim to shift blame for flight problems to FAA

By DAVID KOENIG

AP Airlines Writer

**DALLAS (AP)** — Airlines under scrutiny for widespread flight disruptions are renewing their criticism of the government agency that manages the nation's airspace, saying that understaffing at the Federal Aviation Administration is "crippling" traffic along the East Coast.

Airlines for America, which represents the largest U.S. carriers, said Friday it wants to know FAA's staffing plans for the July Fourth holiday weekend, "so we can plan accordingly."

The comments from the industry group could serve as a pre-emptive defense in case airlines again suffer thousands of canceled and delayed flights over the holiday weekend, when travel is expected to set new pandemic-era highs. "The industry is actively and nimbly doing everything possible to create a positive customer experience since it is in an airline's inherent interest to keep customers happy, so they return for future business," Nicholas Calio, president of the trade group, said in a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Calio said airlines have dropped 15% of the flights



Planes sit on the tarmac at the Des Moines International Airport, Monday, June 13, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

they originally planned for June through August to make the remaining flights more reliable, they are hiring and training more pilots and customer-service agents, and giving passengers more flexibility to change travel plans. Calio said air traffic is often disrupted "for many hours" because bad weather causes the the FAA to issue delays. "However, we have also observed that FAA (air traffic control) staffing challenges have led to traffic

restrictions under blue sky conditions," he added.

The FAA shot back, with a reference to taxpayer money that airlines received after the pandemic devastated air travel.

"People expect when they buy an airline ticket that they'll get where they need to go safely, efficiently, reliably and affordably," the FAA said in a statement. "After receiving \$54 billion in pandemic relief to help save the airlines from mass layoffs and bankruptcy, the

American people deserve to have their expectations met." The FAA said it has added controllers in high-traffic areas and added alternate routes to keep planes moving.

The airline trade group chief's comments came a week after Buttigieg called airline leaders to a virtual meeting and threatened to punish carriers that fail to meet consumer-protection standards set by his department, which includes the FAA.

Buttigieg said he called the meeting after being alarmed by the high number of canceled flights around Memorial Day — more than 2,700 in a five-day stretch, according to tracking service FlightAware. Thunderstorms can quickly snarl air traffic during the summer, but airlines have also acknowledged staffing shortages — they are hiring at a rapid pace to replace tens of thousands of workers whom the airlines paid to quit when travel collapsed in 2020. Pilot union leaders say their groups are being stretched to the limit, and more pilots report being fatigued.

The FAA has admitted that it too is understaffed, particularly at a key air traffic control center in Florida.

Calio said that facility, near Jacksonville, Florida, has been understaffed for 27 of the last 30 days, "which is crippling to the entire East Coast traffic flows."

More than 500 U.S. flights had been canceled and more than 2,300 delayed by early afternoon Friday, according to FlightAware. That was better than Thursday, however, when thunderstorms on the East Coast contributed to more than 800 cancellations and 6,600 delays. □

## Federal court blocks FDA ban on Juul e-cigarette sales in U.S.

By TOM MURPHY

AP Health Writer

A federal court on Friday temporarily blocked the government's order for Juul to stop selling its electronic cigarettes.

Juul had filed an emergency motion earlier Friday with the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington so it can appeal the sales ban, and the court later granted the request.

The e-cigarette maker had asked the court to pause what it called an "extraordinary and unlawful action" by the Food and Drug Administration that would have required it to immediately halt its business.

The FDA said Thursday that Juul must stop selling its vaping device and its tobacco and menthol flavored cartridges.

The action was part of a sweeping effort by the agency to bring scientific scrutiny to the multibillion-dollar vaping industry after years of regulatory delays.

To stay on the market, companies must show that their e-cigarettes benefit public health. In practice, that means proving that adult smokers who use them are likely to quit or reduce their smoking, while teens are unlikely to get hooked on them.

The FDA said Juul's appli-

cation left regulators with significant questions and didn't include enough information to evaluate any potential health risks. Juul said it submitted enough information and data to address all issues raised. The company said the FDA refused its request to put its order on hold to avoid a massive disruption to its business.

While Juul remains a top seller, its share of the U.S. e-cigarette market has dipped to about half. The company was widely blamed for a surge in underage vaping a few years ago, but a recent federal survey showed a drop in



A woman exhales while vaping from a Juul pen e-cigarette in Vancouver, Wash., April 16, 2019.

Associated Press

the teen vaping rate and a shift away from Juul's products.

The devices heat a nicotine solution into a vapor that's inhaled, bypassing many of the toxic chemicals produced by burning tobacco. □

The company said in its Friday court filing that it submitted a 125,000-page application to the FDA nearly two years ago. It said the application included several studies to evaluate the health risks among Juul users. □

## Ex-Minneapolis officer who killed 911 caller to be released

By AMY FORLTI  
Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP) —** The former Minneapolis police officer who fatally shot an unarmed woman who called 911 to report a possible sexual assault in the alley behind her home is scheduled to be released from prison next week, months after his murder conviction was overturned and he was resentenced on a lesser charge.

Mohamed Noor, 36, is scheduled to be released from custody Monday, according to online Department of Corrections records.

Noor was initially convicted of third-degree murder and manslaughter in the 2017 fatal shooting of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, a 40-year-old dual U.S.-Australian citizen and yoga teacher who was engaged to be married. But last year, the Minnesota Supreme Court tossed out his murder conviction and 12 1/2-year sentence, saying the murder charge didn't apply to the circumstances of this case.

He was resentenced to four years and nine months on the manslaughter charge. In Minnesota, it's presumed that a defendant with good behavior will serve two-thirds of a sentence



Former Minneapolis police officer Mohamed Noor addresses Judge Kathryn Quaintance at the Hennepin County Government Center, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

in prison and the rest on supervised release, commonly known as parole. The DOC's website says Noor will be on supervised release until Jan. 24, 2024. Damond's father, John Ruszczyk, said Friday that the family was disappointed that Noor's third-degree murder conviction was overturned.

"His release after a trivial sentence shows great disrespect to the wishes of the jury who represented the communities of Minneapolis

and their wish to make a statement about the communities' expectations of police behaviour and actions," Ruszczyk wrote in response to emailed questions from The Associated Press.

After his conviction, Noor began serving his time at Minnesota's maximum-security prison in Oak Park Heights, but the Star Tribune reported he was transferred to a facility in North Dakota in July 2019 for his own safety. Department

of Corrections spokesman Nicholas Kimball said Noor is still out of state, but did not specify where.

"For safety reasons, we aren't able to provide more detail than what is available on the public website, which is the scheduled date of release," Kimball said. It wasn't clear whether Noor would return to Minnesota. His attorney, Tom Plunkett, declined to comment, saying, "at this point I just want to respect Mr. Noor's privacy."

Damond's killing angered citizens in the U.S. and Australia, and led to the resignation of Minneapolis' police chief. It also led the department to change its policy on body cameras; Noor and his partner didn't have theirs activated when they were investigating Damond's 911 call.

Noor testified at his 2019 trial that he and his partner were driving slowly in an alley when a loud bang on their police SUV made him fear for their lives. He said he saw a woman appear at the partner's driver's side window and raise her right arm before he fired a shot from the passenger seat to stop what he thought was a threat.

Damond was a meditation teacher and life coach who was killed about a month before her wedding. Her maiden name was Justine Ruszczyk, and though she was not yet married, she had already been using her fiance's last name. Her fiance, Don Damond, declined to comment on Noor's pending release, but said during Noor's resentencing that he had forgiven the former officer, and that he had no doubt Justine also would have forgiven him "for your inability in managing your emotions that night." □



Entrance to an exhibit by artist Jean-Michel Basquiat is seen at the Orlando Museum of Art, Wednesday, June 1, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

By DAVID FISCHER  
Associated Press

The FBI raided a Florida art museum on Friday and seized more than two dozen paintings attributed to artist Jean-Michel Basquiat

following questions about their authenticity. Orlando Museum of Art spokeswoman Emilia Bourmas-Fry said in a statement that they were complying with a warrant from the

## FBI seizes disputed Basquiat artwork from Florida museum

FBI for access to the 'Heroes and Monsters' exhibit, which is now in the government's possession. She added that no one on the museum's staff has been arrested.

"It is important to note that we still have not been led to believe the Museum has been or is the subject of any investigation," Bourmas-Fry said. "We continue to see our involvement purely as a fact witness."

According to a search warrant, federal art crimes investigators have been looking into the 25 paintings since shortly after their discovery in 2012. The con-

troversy gained more attention shortly after the Orlando exhibit opened in February. Basquiat, who lived and worked in New York City, found success in the 1980s as part of the Neo-expressionism movement. The Orlando Museum of Art was the first institution to display pieces said to have been found in an old storage locker years after Basquiat's 1988 death from a drug overdose at age 27. Questions about the artworks' authenticity arose almost immediately after their discovery. The artwork was purportedly made in 1982, but experts have

pointed out that the cardboard used in at least one of the pieces included FedEx typeface that wasn't used until 1994, about six years after Basquiat died, according to the warrant. Also, television writer Thad Mumford, the owner of the storage locker where the art was eventually found, told investigators that he had never owned any Basquiat art and that the pieces were not in the unit the last time he had visited. Mumford died in 2018. Orlando Museum of Art director Aaron De Groft has repeatedly insisted that the art is legitimate. □

## U.K. Conservatives lose 2 elections in blow to Boris Johnson

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a double blow as voters rejected his Conservative Party in two special parliamentary elections dominated by questions about his leadership and ethics.

He was further wounded when the party's chairman quit after the results came out early Friday, saying Conservatives "cannot carry on with business as usual," and a former party leader said the country needed "new leadership." The centrist Liberal Democrats overturned a big Conservative majority to win the rural southwest England seat of Tiverton and Honiton, while the main opposition Labour Party re-claimed Wakefield in northern England from Johnson's Tories. The contests, triggered by the resignations of Conservative lawmakers hit by sex scandals, offered voters the chance to give their verdict on the prime minister just weeks after 41% of his own MPs voted to oust him.

"The people of Tiverton and Honiton have spoken for Britain," said the area's newly elected Lib-



Newly-elected Liberal Democrat lawmaker for Tiverton and Honiton Richard Foord celebrates in Crediton, England, Friday June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

eral Democrat lawmaker, Richard Foord. "They sent a loud and clear message: It's time for Boris Johnson to go, and go now."

Defeat in either district would have been a setback for the prime minister's party. Losing both increases jitters among restive Conservatives who already worry the ebullient but erratic and divisive Johnson is no longer an electoral asset.

Party chairman Oliver

Dowden resigned, saying "our supporters are distressed and disappointed by recent events, and I share their feelings."

"We cannot carry on with business as usual," said Dowden, previously a staunch Johnson loyalist.

"I will, as always, remain loyal to the Conservative Party," he said, without offering an endorsement of Johnson.

Former Conservative leader Michael Howard, who

like Johnson was a strong backer of Britain's exit from the European Union, urged the party to remove him as leader.

The prime minister was 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometers) away at a Commonwealth summit in Rwanda as the drama unfolded.

The electoral tests came as Britain faces the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation, with Russia's war in Ukraine squeezing supplies of energy and food

staples at a time of soaring consumer demand while the coronavirus pandemic recedes. "I'm not going to pretend these are brilliant results," Johnson said at a news conference in Kigali. "We've got to listen, we've got to learn. ... When people are finding it tough, they send messages to politicians, and politicians have got to respond."

Johnson won a big majority in a 2019 general election by keeping the Conservatives' traditional voters affluent, older and concentrated in southern England and winning new ones in poorer, post-industrial northern towns where many residents felt overlooked by governments for decades. Thursday's elections brought defeat on both fronts. Rural Tiverton and Honiton has voted Conservative for generations, while Wakefield is a northern district that the Tories won in 2019 from Labour.

Labour's widely expected victory in Wakefield — whose previous Conservative legislator resigned after being convicted of sexual assault — is a boost to a party that has been out of office nationally since 2010. □

## Auschwitz Museum says it's a target of Russian propaganda

By VANESSA GERA  
Associated Press

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — The Auschwitz-Birkenau museum alleged Friday that it was the target of "primitive" propaganda spread by Russian state agencies on social media.

The museum said that social media posts falsely claim to show anti-Russian stickers placed around the memorial at the former site of the Auschwitz death camp site in southern Poland, an area under German occupation during World War II.

"Russia and Russians," the stickers appearing in fake images say, "the only gas you and your country deserve is Zykon B." That is a reference to the gas the Germans used in the mass

murder of Jews and others at the camp, which operated during 1940-1945.

The images were tweeted by official Russian sites, including the Russian Arms Control Delegation in Vienna and retweeted by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They appeared intended to portray Russians as targets of vicious Russophobia. Some posts claimed the stickers were the work of Ukrainians.

Several online posts claimed the stickers went up on June 22, which is the anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. The Soviet Union's army liberated Auschwitz in 1945.

The Auschwitz Museum said no such stickers were found

at the places depicted in the images, and that security cameras did not capture anyone affixing anything to the locations on or before June 22. It said an analysis showed the photos

were manipulated and the stickers added digitally.

"Everything indicates that the photographs are simply a manipulation," the museum said, describing the images as "primitive and

gross propaganda." When Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, President Vladimir Putin said the goal was to "denazify" the neighboring country, whose democratically elected president is Jewish and lost family members in the Holocaust.

"The use of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial for propaganda that lends credence to alleged Russophobia and strengthens theories about the need for denazification of Ukraine should be opposed by all thinking people worldwide," it added.

More than 1.1 million people, most of them Jews, were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators at Auschwitz. □



A view of the gate of the Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

# US: Afghan national freed from Guantanamo Bay after 15 years

By MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — An Afghan prisoner held in U.S. custody for nearly 15 years has been released from the Guantanamo Bay detention center after a federal court ruled that he was unlawfully detained, the U.S. Department of Defense said Friday.

Asadullah Haroon Gul's release was first announced earlier in the day by the Taliban in Afghanistan and an international human rights group.

From Kabul, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban-appointed deputy culture and information minister, tweeted that Gul was one of the last two Afghan prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay.

Photographs of Gul being greeted by senior Taliban officials in Doha, Qatar, were posted on Twitter later in the day. Mujahid thanked Qatar for facilitating Gul's release, without elaborating.

The United States opened the detention center under President George W. Bush in January 2002 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and



In this photo reviewed by U.S. military officials, the sun sets behind the closed Camp X-Ray detention facility, Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

Associated Press

the invasion of Afghanistan to capture al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

It was intended at the time to hold and interrogate those suspected of having links to al-Qaida or the Taliban, who had sheltered bin Laden.

However, scores of suspects from multiple countries were later sent there

and the detention center became notorious after reports emerged of detainees being humiliated and tortured.

Gul was greeted upon landing in Doha by top Taliban official Suhail Shaheen, who said he would soon fly home to Afghanistan.

In a statement, the Depart-

ment of Defense said Gul's release was in accord with a district court in Washington's decision that the United States "no longer has a legal basis to justify the continued detention" of Gul. It thanked Qatar for its assistance without providing any details.

Earlier Friday, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, vice

chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, criticized the Biden administration for allowing Gul's transfer. "The terrorist organization that now controls Afghanistan cannot and will not ensure Gul, or any future detainees who are released, will not return to the battlefield and potentially kill Americans or other innocent civilians," Rubio said, referring to the Taliban who seized power in Afghanistan last August.

Mujahid said Gul was handed over to the Taliban as a result of their talks with U.S. authorities, which he described as a "direct and positive interaction with the United States."

Shaheen told The Associated Press that Gul's freedom came "following direct engagement" with the U.S.

He said Gul was detained by American forces in the city of Jalalabad in 2007 and was held for 15 years without trial.

The remaining Afghan at Guantanamo Bay is Muhammad Rahim al-Afghani, who is accused of working with bin Laden as a "procurement specialist." □

## Morocco: 5 migrants dead in stampede in bid to enter Melilla

By CIARÁN GILES and TARIK

EL-BARAKAH

Associated Press

**RABAT, Morocco (AP)** — Five Africans seeking to cross into Spain were killed and scores of migrants and police were injured in what Moroccan authori-

ties called a "stampede" of people surging across Morocco's border fence with the Spanish North African enclave of Melilla on Friday.

A total of 133 migrants breached the border between the Moroccan city

of Nador and Melilla on Friday, the first such mass crossing since Spain and Morocco mended diplomatic relations last month.

A spokesperson for the Spanish government's office in Melilla said about 2,000 people attempted to cross, but many were stopped by Spanish Civil Guard police and Moroccan forces on either side of the border fence.

Morocco's Interior Ministry said in a statement that the casualties occurred when people tried to climb the iron fence.

It said five migrants were killed and 76 injured, and 140 Moroccan security officers were injured. The injured were hospitalized in Nador, it said.

Spanish officials said 49 Civil Guards sustained minor injuries and 57 migrants had to be treated, three

of them in hospital. None is in serious condition. Four police vehicles were damaged by rocks thrown by some migrants.

Those who succeeded in crossing went to a local migrant center, where authorities were evaluating their circumstances.

People fleeing poverty and violence sometimes make mass attempts to reach Melilla and the other Spanish territory on the North African coast, Ceuta, as a springboard to continental Europe.

Spain normally relies on Morocco to keep migrants away from the border.

Over two days at the beginning of March, more than 3,500 people tried to scale the six-meter (20-foot) barrier that surrounds Melilla and nearly 1,000 made it across, according to Spanish authorities.

Friday's crossings were the first attempt since relations between Spain and Morocco improved in March after a year-long dispute centered on the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony annexed by Morocco in 1976.

Morocco loosened its controls around Ceuta last year, allowing thousands of migrants to cross into Spain. The move was viewed as retaliation for Spain's decision to allow the leader of Western Sahara's pro-independence movement to be treated for COVID-19 at a Spanish hospital.

Tensions between the two countries began to thaw earlier this year after Spain backed Morocco's plan to grant more autonomy to Western Sahara, where activists are seeking full independence. □



Riot police officers cordon off the area after migrants arrive on Spanish soil and crossing the fences separating the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco in Melilla, Spain, Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

## Romanian port struggles to handle flow of Ukrainian grain

By VADIM GHIRDA

Associated Press

CONSTANTA, Romania (AP)

— With Ukraine's seaports blockaded or captured by Russian forces, neighboring Romania's Black Sea port of Constanta has emerged as a main conduit for the war-torn country's grain exports amid a growing world food crisis.

It's Romania's biggest port, home to Europe's fastest-loading grain terminal, and has processed nearly a million tons of grain from Ukraine — one of the world's biggest exporters of wheat and corn — since the Feb. 24 invasion.

But port operators say that maintaining, let alone increasing, the volume they handle could soon be impossible without concerted European Union support and investment.

"If we want to keep helping Ukrainian farmers, we need help to increase our handling capacities," said Dan Dolghin, director of cereal operations at the Black Sea port's main Comvex operator.

"No single operator can invest in infrastructure that



An employee of the Romanian grain handling operator Comvex oversees the unloading of Ukrainian cereals from a barge in the Black Sea port of Constanta, Romania, Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

will become redundant once the war ends," he added.

Comvex can process up to 72,000 tonnes of cereals per day. That and Constanta's proximity by land to Ukraine, and by sea to the Suez Canal, make it the best current route for Ukrainian agricultural exports.

Other alternatives include road and rail shipments across Ukraine's western border into Poland and its Baltic Sea ports.

Efforts to lift the Russian blockade have got nowhere, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization projects up to 181 million people in 41 countries

could face food crisis or worse levels of hunger this year in connection with the Ukraine war.

Just days into the Russian invasion, Comvex invested in a new unloading facility, anticipating that the neighboring country would have to reroute its agricultural exports.

Associated Press

This enabled the port over the past four months to ship close to a million tons of Ukrainian grain, most of it arriving by barge down the Danube River.

But with 20 times that amount still blocked in Ukraine and the summer harvest season fast approaching in Romania itself and other countries that use Constanta for their exports, Dolghin said it's likely the pace of Ukrainian grain shipping through his port will slow.

"As the summer harvest in Romania gathers momentum, all port operators will turn to Romanian cereals," he warned.

Ukraine's deputy agricultural minister, Markian Dmytrasevych, is also worried.

In an address to the European Parliament earlier this month, Dmytrasevych said that when Constanta operators turn to European grain suppliers in the summer "it will further complicate the export of Ukrainian products."

Romanian and other EU officials have also voiced concern, lining up in recent weeks to pledge support. □

## Protesters in Ecuador attack military, police convoy

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) —

Authorities in Ecuador on Friday accused a mob of attacking a military and police convoy, seriously injuring 17 soldiers and burning three trucks near the country's capital, where Indigenous protesters blocking roads have brought the city to a near halt.

Army Gen. Edwin Adatty, commander of the Quito task force, said protesters shot rifles and fireworks and carried other weapons during Thursday's attack.

"This is not a social protest. It is an exaggerated, disproportionate social violence for political purposes," he said. The convoy had been trying to free private vehicles and food-carrying trucks that had been blocked by protesters.

The demonstrations are part of a national strike that the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities began June 14 to demand that gasoline prices be cut by 45 cents a gallon to \$2.10, price controls for agricultural products and a larger budget for education. Protests have been especially violent in six provinces in the north-central part of the South American country.

The confederation on Thursday said a demonstrator died of pellet wounds in the chest and abdomen while protesting near the National Assembly in Quito, where about 100 other people suffered a variety of injuries.

Two other deaths were previously reported.

Police tweeted that officers were also injured by pellets. Quito is experiencing food and fuel shortages because of roadblocks and other disruptions from the unrest. Production Minister Julio José Prado said that nearly 600 private vehicles and food-carrying trucks are trapped in Nanegalito, a community about 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest of Quito.

In the capital, groups of protesters have roamed the city attacking vehicles and civilians and forcing the closure of businesses, some of which were looted. They have also punctured the tires of buses, forcing passengers to walk.

The organization Human Rights International said that that four of its staff



A demonstrator hurls a tear gas canister back at police during protests against President Guillermo Lasso's economic policies and demanding a fuel price cut, in downtown Quito, Ecuador, Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Associated Press

members were physically attacked and robbed while "carrying out research and verification work on the protests" in Quito.

"We reject these actions, and we call for dialogue," that organization tweeted. The situation prompted several embassies, including those of Germany, Britain, Canada and the U.S.,

to issue a public statement expressing concerns about "the fundamental rights of all citizens," and calling for the parties to negotiate and reach "concrete agreements."

The U.S. Department of State issued an advisory Wednesday warning travelers about the widespread protests. □

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### Chris Kross:

## “Music is something that is always there for us, so we need to use it”

In an interview with musician Chris Kross, he told us a bit about his professional career as guitar player and producer. He also told us about his project, KrossHart.

Chris started with music since he was only seven years old, taking his first lesson of block whistle, which ignited a passion that 15 years later is still an essential part of his life.

“We are a family that is quite musical, and I was always interested in music. My parents bit by bit pushed me into more musical lessons, and by the time I was 14 years old, I received my own guitar. That's where it all started, and from there I never stopped playing”, Chris told us.

Chris continued his studies in music, and in the United

States he studied Contemporary Writing and Production at Berklee College of Music. “The study has to do with music writing and also production”, he explained. Chris calls himself a guitar player and presents himself all around our island as a guitarist. He can also play piano and bass, but he explained that in music there's a lot more to do than just play an instrument. “In music you can do other things as well, and you don't have to precisely play another instrument. For example, I focus a lot on music writing and music production as well”, Chris said.

The project KrossHart started almost 10 years ago, and was the vision of Chris Kross together with Siegfried Hart. “The idea to



start the project came because we always played together. But then we both went to study abroad, and when I was living in Spain

and went on vacation to the Netherlands, we met finally. Both of us were more into technology, so we decided to try to record something, try to come with something, and that's how the project started”, Chris explained.

The goal of the project KrossHart, according to Chris, is ‘to continue the legacy of jazz’. “Because right now it's our generation's turn to come into it, but we are coming a little different because we do it in our own style. We have our own influences which makes it different compared with the past.”

Currently Chris has his own studio where he makes his music and gives lessons in guitar, theory, and ear-training.



Chris finishes with a message to young people who are interested in entering the world of music. “Music is a great resource for people, where you can always go to it and express yourself; and not only to express but also to enjoy, that's also a very important part. Music is something that will always be there for us all, which means we have to use it, because it is there for us”, Chris said. □

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**SETAR:****Proud to continue to expand the camera service around Aruba**

Monday morning, SETAR along with the Aruban Minister of Justice and Social Affairs Sr. Rocco Tjon, presented the project "Video Surveillance System" for the beach area starting from the Strandpolitie (beach police) to Fisherman's Hut.

SETAR along with camera company Avigilon will be in charge of this project. SETAR has a wide experience in the implementation of the Avigilon systems in other companies and vital locations of our Island.

The "Video Surveillance System" of Avigilon is a modern system with the lat-

est software's with solutions like Artificial Intelligence & Video Analytics, Cameras & Sensors, Video Infrastructure and Video Management Software.

With various cameras installed around the beach area, the special cameras will provide maximum visibility to the police and therefore guarantee the safety of our visitors and locals who make use of this beach area.

As SETAR we are proud to be able to implement yet another project of cameras of this magnitude, which contributes to the wellbe-



ing and safety of our visitors and locals. SETAR continues to prove that aside from

telephone and mobile, internet and TV services that we offer, we also contin-

ue to grow in other types of services of quality and guarantee. □

## **The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) informs The silver 5 Florin commemorative coin "Yuwana" is obtainable as of June 27, 2022 at the CBA**

**The Iguana is called "Yuwana" in Papiamento. It is a very impressive animal. An adult male can reach a length of 2 meters, including its tail, and is usually slightly larger than the female.**

The adult Yuwana has a green-gray color, while the younger Yuwana is bright green. The color of the Yuwana sometimes also depends on its emotions, temperature, health, and the environment. It is a very agile animal and can easily climb trees. It is also a good swimmer and diver. It eats

leaves and fruits. In 1995, the hunting and killing of the Yuwana were banned by the "Natuurbeschermingsverordening" (AB 1995 no. 2) legislation. Since then it is one of the various animals protected by law.

For additional information please contact the Cash Operations & Logistics Department of the CBA at telephone number 525-2139.

For purchase: Cashier of the CBA at J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 8, between 8:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m. □



## ABA elects its board and President for the next term



**Oranjestad - Recently the Aruba Bankers Association (ABA) elected its board and President for the term starting in 2022 and lasting until 2024.**

During its general meeting held on June 21, 2022 Sharon Fränkel-de Cuba, Managing Director of Aruba Bank N.V. stepped down as President of the Aruba Bankers' Association. Paul DeWolfe, General Managing Director of Caribbean Merchantile Bank N.V. will lead ABA as the new President of the association for the new term. Sharon Fränkel-de Cuba has been appointed Vice President of the association, and Pierre Rafini,

Vice President, Business Banking Dutch Caribbean and Country Manager, Aruba | RBC Royal Bank (Aruba), has been elected Treasurer of the association.

The main goal of the Aruba Bankers Association is to represent the interests of the banks, contributing to a healthy development of the banking sector and the economy of Aruba as a whole.

Especially in these challenging times ABA is committed to continue working towards the wellbeing of our community and is well equipped to

function as a sounding board for government and nongovernment entities.

In an effort to contribute to the development of a healthy economy, ABA will continue to extend information on economic and financial developments, which affect our community.

The Aruba Bankers Association would like to thank Mrs. Fränkel-de Cuba for her contribution during the last two (2) years and welcomes Mr. Paul DeWolfe and Mr. Pierre Rafini to their new undertakings. □

### Aruba to Me

**ORANJESTAD** –We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive?

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**For today we have a fun photo shared with us by Harriet and Lee from Bolton Lancashire, Manchester in the U.K saying "Aruba to Me is: Udder Paradise"**

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □



# Is 'learn now, pay later' just another student debt trap

By ANNA HELHOSKI of  
NerdWallet

The "buy now, pay later" transaction is simple: Shoppers are offered an installment loan at the point of purchase, spreading the cost of the product across several payments. They're often available without a credit check.

Buy now, pay later financing has become a go-to payment method at most major retailers for everything from clothing and cosmetics to computers and patio furniture. Now, it's gaining traction for an even bigger expense: higher education.

Buy now, pay later is an appealing, flexible financing concept, but customers who can't keep up with payments can end up with late charges or interest they can't afford. Just as buy now, pay later can be a debt trap for the wrong shopper, education and consumer advocates fear that "learn now, pay later" could be a similar pitfall for students — and often with much higher stakes.

One fundamental issue: You can't return your hours of education like you can a dress or a laptop.

"There's this deep and fundamental incompatibility with buy now, pay later and education financing," says Ben Kaufman, director of research and investigations at the Student Borrower Protection Center, a nonprofit organization that advocates for student loan borrowers. "Is there ever a worse place for that to be than higher education when there isn't even collateral underlying the product?"

## THE TROUBLE WITH BUY NOW PAY LATER TO FINANCE SCHOOL

Buy now, pay later financing options are typically offered by schools that don't qualify for federal financial aid, such as short-term certificate programs (think truck driving and cosmetology schools) and coding boot camps offered by for-profit institutions. Student outcomes vary widely in the for-profit industry, and the worst actors have been



Graduates of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley attend their commencement ceremony at the schools parking lot on Friday, May 7, 2021, in Edinburg, Texas.

Associated Press

accused of deceiving students and predatory lending.

Kaufman says the buy now, pay later financing model "fits within a long history of fly-by-night operators using ever-more toxic forms of credit to prop up what are essentially scams." The Student Borrower Protection Center found buy now, pay later plans offered at schools ranging from unlicensed computing schools to wilderness survival instruction to training in Reiki, a form of alternative medicine. Kaufman argues there are too few safeguards to prevent shady schools from offering buy now, pay later financing, and it can potentially hurt students.

"This is not a small thing; this is people taking out thousands of dollars of buy now, pay later credit that more likely than not is not going to deliver what was advertised," Kaufman says.

The lack of regulation in both for-profit and buy now, pay later spaces has other consumer watchdogs on alert as well.

"A lot of for-profit institutions are using these products to attract the borrowers to attend, but they're not educating them on what the risks are for it," says Jaylon Herbin, outreach and policy manager at the Center

for Responsible Lending. The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is also concerned. In a Dec. 16, 2021, news release, the bureau stated that some buy now, pay later companies might not be "adequately evaluating what consumer protection laws apply to their products." The bureau has since been collecting information about the risks of buy now, pay later and is expected to publish its findings this year.

## WHAT BUY NOW, PAY LATER COMPANIES ARE OFFERING STUDENTS

A March 2022 report by the Student Borrower Protection Center, which characterized buy now, pay later as "shadow" student debt, found buy now, pay later options offered at more than 50 unaccredited and/or unregulated for-profit schools. The companies named in the report included some major players in the buy now, pay later market: Affirm, Afterpay, Klarna, PayPal, Sezzle, Shop Pay, Uplift and Zip (formerly QuadPay).

This is how it works with one of the major players. Affirm, as most buy now, pay later companies, is focused primarily on retail, but it partners with boot camps like Udacity. Udacity has a

positive reputation among consumers, but as the Student Borrower Protection Center points out, Udacity doesn't provide signifiers that its programs will lead to success, such as historic student outcomes or job placement stats.

Affirm can be used to pay for "nanodegrees" at Udacity, which typically cost less than \$2,000 and are completed within six months. Borrowers can then pay off the Affirm loan in three, six or 12 months at rates from 0% to 30%. Interest does not compound.

Another borrower takes out the same amount and plans to repay it in six months. But their credit history is less than stellar and they'll have a 25% interest rate. That means over six months, they'll pay \$358 per month and \$2,148 total.

In either scenario, you would be expected to repay the loan before any likely potential payoff from your nanodegree.

Affirm says consumers must apply each time they buy something and the company approves only credit "that we believe can and will be repaid." When it reports a borrower to a credit bureau, Affirm includes both positive and delinquent payments.

Buy now, pay later doesn't

always look like this. It can be even worse with a lender that charges compound interest or has shorter repayment terms. And that's in the best-case scenario where the program pays off.

## WHAT CONSUMERS CAN DO TO EVALUATE FINANCING OPTIONS

If you are looking for training with flexible classes, your local community college should be your go-to option—their programs are typically eligible for federal financial aid, including free Pell Grants and traditional student loans.

Consumers should always evaluate for-profit and short-term credentialing schools regarding job placement, graduation rates, accreditation and cost. This information is not always available, but it's best to inquire. If you're determined to attend a for-profit college, short-term credentialing school or boot camp, there are very few financing options available: a loan offered by the school, a credit card, a personal loan, or a buy now, pay later plan.

If you must use buy now, pay later for school, the rule of thumb is this: If you don't have room in your budget now to make the payments, it's not worth it. Some of the risks to consider include:

— Timing of repayment. The promise of an education program, especially one focused on short-term career training, is usually a job and a boost in income. While student loans usually require borrowers to start making payments six months after leaving school, buy now, pay later timelines are typically much shorter.

— The total cost. What makes buy now, pay later plans alluring is also what makes it hazardous: It's easy to overextend yourself on a large purchase because the broken-up payments seem more affordable. Depending on what you qualify for, high-interest rates can make the amount you pay over time even more expensive. □

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Friend of

1 Not Wendy  
dissonant

6 Moon of flavor

Saturn 41 Derisive

11 Make look

amends 42 "In the

12 Love to Seven  
pieces Woods"

13 Recurring poet

14 Amusing DOWN

15 Score 1 Meddle

count 2 "Becket"

17 Demand actor

18 Pole parts

worker 4 Have —

19 Pumps (have pull)

full of bubbles

22 "The Rise of Sky-walker"

heroine

23 Attacked violently

24 Crichton novel

25 Stop the flow of

27 Back at sea

30 Biped feature

31 Farm grazer

32 Cardinal

33 Game outing

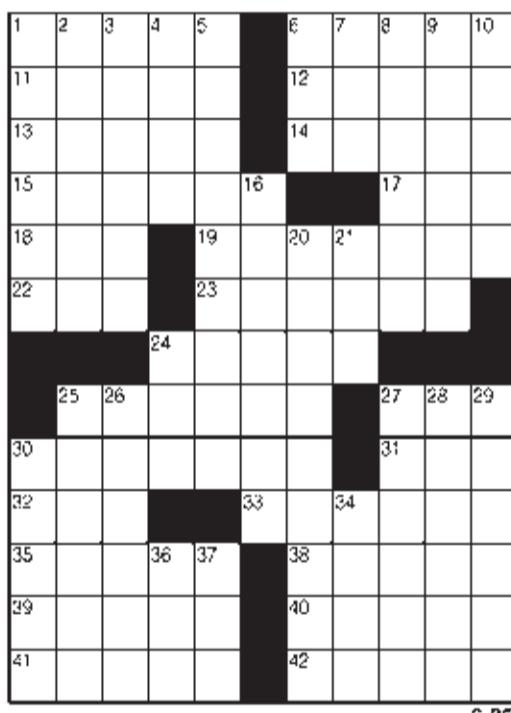
35 Saw

38 Make broader



Yesterday's answer

8	Soup	25	Uppsala's
14	choice	26	nation
15	9 Out of	27	So far
16	bed	28	Maine
17	10 Bottle	29	park
18	3 Inform	30	Green
19	parts	31	shade
20	4 Have —	32	Cords
21	16 Medium	33	30 Catches
22	5 Un-	34	Of high
23	touched	35	quality
24	6 Tic-toe	36	"My word!"
25	link	37	Mess
26	7 Chapel	38	up
27	reply	39	slangily
28		40	
29		41	

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

F M N H M A L N K Z F H A L

A N W L E Z F J H D G R G H C L N K

Z R M Z — F M G Y N M T

U N I H E C F R M

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE AVERAGE DOG IS A NICER PERSON THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON.  
— ANDY ROONEY

## Summer swelter: Persistent heat wave breaks records, spirits



Mitchell Clearman takes a photo of the sign at El Arroyo restaurant in Austin, Texas, on a hot afternoon, Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN

From the normally chilly Russian Arctic to the traditionally sweltering American South, big swaths of the Northern Hemisphere continued to sizzle with extreme heat as the start of summer more resembled the dog days of August with parts of China and Japan setting all-time heat records Friday.

In the United States a heat dome of triple digit temperatures in many places combined with high humidity oscillated from west to east. On Thursday, at least 15 states hit 100 degrees (37.8 degrees Celsius) and at least 21 high temperature marks were set or broken, according to the National Weather Service, which held 30 million Americans under some kind of heat advisory.

The extreme discomfort of Thursday came after 12 states broke the 100-degree mark on Wednesday and 21 records were tied or broken. Since June 15, at least 113 automated weather stations have tied or broken hot-temperature records. Scientists say this early baking has all the hall-

marks of climate change.

In China's northern Henan province Friday, Xuchang hit 107.8 degrees (42.1 degrees Celsius) and Dengfeng hit 106.9 degrees (41.6 degrees Celsius) for their hottest days on record, according to global extreme weather tracker Maximiliano Herrera. And in Japan Friday, Tokamachi and Tsunan set all-time heat records while several cities broke monthly marks, he said

"It's easy to look at these figures and forget the immense misery they represent. People who can't afford air conditioning and people who work outdoors have only one option, to suffer," said Texas A&M climate scientist Andrew Dessler, who was in College Station, where the temperature tied a record at 102 degrees (38.9 degrees Celsius) Thursday.

"Those of us with air conditioning may not physically suffer, but we are prisoners of the indoors."

After three deaths, Chicago has changed its cooling rules. In Macon, Georgia, the temperature swept from 64 degrees (17.8 de-

grees Celsius) to 105 (40.6 degrees Celsius) in just nine hours Wednesday. Then on Thursday the temperature peaked at 104 (40 degrees Celsius), a record for the day. Even Minneapolis hit 100 on Monday.

Probably only the Pacific Northwest and Northeast have been spared the heat wave, said National Weather Service meteorologist Marc Chenard at the Weather Prediction Center. On Thursday, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Arizona, South Carolina, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, South Dakota, Colorado, Nevada and California all hit at least 100. Houston, Dallas, Austin, New Orleans and Orlando all tied high record marks on Thursday. "It's persistent," Chenard said. "It's been over a week and it's going to continue in some aspects." It's not just the U.S.

The Russian city of Norilsk, above the Arctic circle, hit 89.6 degrees (32 degrees Celsius) Thursday for its hottest June day on record and tied for its hottest day in any month on record, according to Herrera. Saragt in Turkmenistan rose to 114.6 degrees (45.9 degrees Celsius) but Herrera said in the next days it can get even worse.

Herrera said tracking heat records is so overwhelming that he doesn't have time to eat or sleep.

A European heat wave has also caused problems with fires in Germany and Spain. Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini said what's happening with this early heat wave is "very consistent with what we'd expect in a continually warming world."

"These temperatures are occurring with only 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) of global warming and we are on track for 4 degrees Fahrenheit (2.2 degrees Celsius) more warming over this century," Dessler said. "I literally cannot imagine how bad that will be." □

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## After Roe, Dems seek probe of tech's use of personal data



Clinic escort Kim Gibson stands outside the Jackson Women's Health Organization clinic in Jackson, Miss., calling out to incoming patients that the clinic is still open, moments after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade was issued, Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

By MARCY GORDON  
AP Business Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — With the Supreme Court ending the constitutional protections for abortion, four Democratic lawmakers are asking federal regulators to investigate Apple and Google for allegedly deceiving millions of mobile phone users by enabling the collection and sale of their personal data to third parties.

The decision Friday by the court's conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade is expected to lead to abortion bans in about half the states. Privacy experts say that could make women vulnerable because their personal data could be used to surveil pregnancies and shared with police or sold to vigilantes. Online searches, period apps, fitness trackers and advice helplines could become rich data sources for such surveillance efforts.

The request for an investigation of the two California-based tech giants

came Friday in a letter to Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan. It was signed by Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey, and Rep. Sara Jacobs of California. It was sent shortly before the Supreme Court announced its decision overturning the 1973 precedent and noted that the court was likely to do so.

"Individuals seeking abortions and other reproductive healthcare will become particularly vulnerable to privacy harms, including through the collec-

tion and sharing of their location data," the lawmakers said in the letter. "Data brokers are already selling, licensing and sharing the location information of people that visit abortion providers to anyone with a credit card."

They said prosecutors in states where abortion becomes illegal could soon be able to obtain warrants for location information about anyone who has visited an abortion provider. "Private actors will also be incentivized by state bounty laws to hunt down women who have obtained or are seeking an abortion

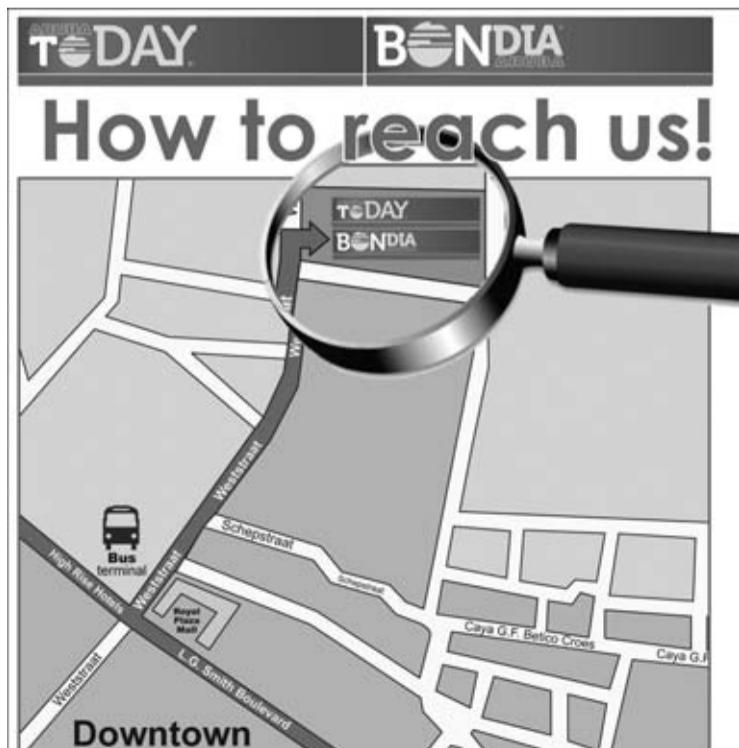
by accessing location information through shady data brokers," the lawmakers wrote.

The companies "knowingly facilitated" the harmful practices by building location identifiers used for advertising into their mobile phone operating systems, the lawmakers said.

FTC spokesman Peter Kalplan confirmed that the agency had received the letter but said there would be no comment on it.

Apple and Google didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The lawmakers' letter noted that Apple and Google now allow consumers to opt out of the data tracking. However, it said that until recently, Apple enabled the tracking identifier by default and required consumers to dig through confusing phone settings to turn it off. Google still enables it by default, and until recently did not even provide consumers with an opt-out, the letter said.□



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## Rick Astley revisits his career-making song with 'gratitude'

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — How does Rick Astley handle one of his songs being part of the biggest internet meme of all time? He rolls with it, obviously.

"Listen, let's face it, 'Never Gonna Give You Up' has sort of become something else," he says. "The video and the song have drifted off into the ether and become something else, and I'm ever so grateful for it." That song turns 35 this year and is still very much alive, buoyed by a second chapter as a gentle joke wherein someone baits you with an enticing online link, which points instead to the video for this 1987 dance-pop smash. It's called Rickrolling.

Thirty-five years later, Astley is singing it this summer on tour with New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa and En Vogue for the 57-date "The Mixtape Tour 2022."

A remastered version of his 1987 debut album also has been released featuring, of course, "Never Gonna Give You Up."

"I'm never going to have a song as big as that ever, and I kind of knew that while it was happening. I kind of thought, 'We're never going to beat this.' But I also kind of thought, 'Well, how bad is that?'"

There has always been much more to Astley than just that song. After blowing up in the late 1980s, he left show business frustrated and has only recently re-emerged with the strong albums "50" in 2016 and "Beautiful Life" in 2018.

"Often the second act can be more enjoyable because you're more in control and you savor every minute," said Alistair Norbury, president of repertoire and marketing at BMG UK, which signed Astley.

The passage of time — and the fact that Astley is such a sweet guy — has softened any sharpness. He says he understands how the past can look different with rose-colored glasses. Rock stars have lately told him they love his voice.

"And I'm like, 'Really? I



British singer-songwriter Rick Astley poses for a portrait before a concert at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill., on June 17, 2022.

Associated Press

thought you would have strung me up in the village square," he says, laughing. "They probably would have done at the time, but I think over time, I think it just changes your perspective."

Astley, 56, is the youngest of four who grew up near Manchester, England. His sister played a lot of progressive rock and adored David Bowie. A brother was a huge Queen fan, and he remembers Queen's "Night at the Opera" album played on a loop. Astley soaked it all in, from Stevie Wonder to The Smiths.

He was in a band in school — they once performed "So Lonely" by The Police with Astley on drums and singing — that wiped the floor with rivals at a battle of the bands. He would go to gigs and dream of being a music star.

He remembers being astounded one day when he spotted the bass player of The Smiths walking through town. "This can happen?" he recalls thinking. "You can be from a town that I buy my records in but last week you were on 'Top of the Pops?'"

Astley was only in his early

20s while recording his debut album, "Whenever You Need Somebody," with the songwriting and record production trio known as Stock Aitken Waterman, who had crafted songs for Bananarama and Dead or Alive.

"I sold a lot of records. I was having a lot of hits, and then it was getting to a point where it's like touch and go — how is this going to go now because you have to make another record?"

Burned out and frustrated, he walked away at 27. "I think I just didn't have it in me. I just didn't. I didn't want to do it," he says.

He admires pop stars like Madonna or Kylie Minogue for their longevity. "I actually don't know how they've done it," he says.

Being a pop star messes with your head and Astley says that happened to him, too. "I think my days were numbered anyway, but I think I just managed to get out before they threw me out, you know?" He didn't perform for 15 years.

Unlike other pop stars, he hadn't invested his ego in his looks or others' perceptions. "I was never cool. I

wasn't cool when I had my hit records," he says. Astley has nothing but compassion for those chewed up by the fame monster. "It must be unbelievably painful." Astley reemerged from self-exile in 2016 with "50," named, with a hat-tip to Adele, for his age at the time, a strong album that veers from gospel to electro-funky.

Norbury recalls hearing the first few demos on the album and being impressed. He asked Astley's manager who wrote them. The answer was "Rick Astley." He asked who was the co-writer? The answer was, "Nobody." Who produced? "Rick." Then who played all the instruments? "He played all the instruments." Norbury calls Astley "probably one of the hardest working people in this business and always does it with good humor and with a spirit of collaboration and partnership."

Rickrolling started in 2007 — at the infancy of YouTube — and it confused Astley at the beginning. His song and video for "Never Gonna Give You Up" were being used as part of an internet bait-and-switch, but

what did it mean?

"I was overthinking it and worrying about it and wondering what it was. And our daughter said to me — she was about 15 at the time — she just kind of said, 'You do realize it's got nothing to do with you?'" She also predicted: "There'll be something else next week or tomorrow."

"She was slightly wrong because it's still kind of kicking around here and there," says Astley. "But the sentiment of what she was saying was, I think, really, really valuable. I embrace my past, but I don't have to embrace the Rickrolling thing in the same way because I accept the fact that it's got nothing to do with me to some degree."

The song has racked up 1.2 billion streams on YouTube and 559 million Spotify listens. Time Out magazine was always a little puzzled by Rickrolling, asking why anyone wouldn't want to hear the buoyant megajam, saying it is "three and a half of the most effervescent minutes in the '80s canon."

Astley, of course, sees "Never Gonna Give You Up" differently than the people who use it to try to mess with friends. He acknowledges the video is "unbelievably late-'80s cheesy" but "it's a good memory. It's like a fond memory."

For Astley, it is the song that led him to Copenhagen, where he met his wife, Lene Bausager. Without that song, he wouldn't have his daughter or have traveled the world. "I've been to some of the most amazing places in the world that most people have on a bucket list."

He thinks back to the days when he was a new artist looking up to established acts. Now he's a seasoned pro with an arsenal of songs, including an instant crowd-pleaser.

"At the time, I was like green with envy and felt totally insecure and all the rest of it. Now, when I walk out on a stage and sing those songs, I just kind of think, 'Yeah, how lucky am I? Ain't that great?'" □

## Serena Williams practices on Centre Court; 1st foe No. 113

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Serena Williams walked out on Centre Court under a closed retractable roof on Friday afternoon, taking advantage of Wimbledon's new policy of allowing players to practice there and at No. 1 Court before the tournament begins next week.

Accompanied by coach Eric Hechtman — who has worked with her older sister, Venus, and replaces long-time coach Patrick Moratoglou, now with Simona Halep — and hitting partner Jarmere Jenkins, Williams returned to the site of her last official singles match anywhere, nearly a full year ago at the All England Club. That ended after less than a set, when Williams slipped on the slick turf and injured her right leg.

Wearing an all-white outfit and visor, Williams followed No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek into the main stadium and went through about 45 minutes of training, from groundstrokes to volleys and overheads to her best-in-the-game serve. The court-side "mph" monitors were switched off, so there was no way to tell just how fast her serves were zipping, but the echoes produced by her hard-hit shots reverberated off the are-



Serena Williams practices on Centre Court ahead of the 2022 Wimbledon Championship at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, in London, Friday June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

na's thousands of empty green seats and the white cover overhead as a light rain fell outside. The scene played out a few hours after the draw determined that Williams will begin her Wimbledon comeback by facing Harmony Tan, a 24-year-old from France who is ranked 113th and owns a 2-6 career record in Grand Slam matches.

Because of her lack of activity over the past 12 months, Williams — who has been No. 1 in the rankings for a total of 319 weeks — is

outside the WTA's top 1,200 and could have ended up anywhere in the field. She only returned to the tour this week by playing two doubles matches at a tune-up event in England. While the 40-year-old American's track record would merit a seeding, the All England Club adheres strictly to the rankings for seeds.

Williams has won seven Wimbledon championships, part of her total of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, a record for the professional

era. Tan, meanwhile, will be making her debut at the grass-court tournament. If Williams gets past Tan, next up could be a match against Sara Sorribes Tormo, who is seeded 32nd but has never been past the third round in 19 past major appearances.

The third round potentially would put Williams against a tougher test: No. 6-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who was the runner-up to Ash Barty last year at Wimbledon and also reached the final of the 2016 U.S. Open

— beating Williams in the semifinals there.

Barty retired in March and is not defending her title. So the honor of playing the first match at Centre Court on Tuesday, a slot traditionally reserved for the prior year's women's champion, will go to Swiatek, who just collected her second French Open trophy and enters on a 35-match winning streak. The tournament announced Friday that Swiatek was its pick for that Tuesday slot on the schedule. The projected women's quarterfinals based on seedings are Swiatek vs. No. 8 Jessica Pegula, Pliskova vs. No. 4 Paula Badosa, No. 2 Anett Kontaveit vs. No. 5 Maria Sakkari, and No. 3 Ons Jabeur vs. No. 7 Danielle Collins.

The potential men's quarterfinals are top-seeded Novak Djokovic vs. No. 5 Carlos Alcaraz, No. 3 Casper Ruud vs. No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 2 Rafael Nadal vs. No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, and No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. No. 8 Matteo Berrettini.

Djokovic won his third consecutive Wimbledon title — and sixth overall — by beating Berrettini in last year's final. Djokovic starts Centre Court play on Monday against 75th-ranked Kwon Soon-woo of South Korea. □

## Ledecky grabs another gold, Aussies set record at worlds

By CIARÁN FAHEY

AP Sports Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) —

Katie Ledecky extended her record haul of medals and Australia set a world record in the mixed 4x100 meters freestyle final at the world swimming championships on Friday.

American star Ledecky won the 800 freestyle final for the fifth time at the worlds to seal her fourth consecutive 400/800/1,500 triple at the event. She clocked 8 minutes, 8.04 seconds to finish more than 10 seconds ahead of her rivals. Australia's Kiah Melvett was 10.73 behind in

second and Italy's Simona Quadarella 10.96 behind for third.

It's Ledecky's 19th gold at a worlds and her fourth this week including the 4x200 freestyle relay.

"Really good end to a great week," Ledecky said. Her 22 medals are the most for a female swimmer in world championships history. Only Michael Phelps, who won 26, has more.

Australia's mixed relay team of Jack Cartwright, Kyle Chalmers, Madison Wilson and Mollie O'Callaghan clocked 3:19.38 in the 4x100 to shave two-hundredths of a second off the record

set by the United States at the last worlds in Gwangju, South Korea, in July 2019.

"I don't think there was any mention or any expectation or even a thought about being able to break that," Wilson said. "So to do that and see that at the end was just unbelievable and a real surprise for us."

Canada's team of Joshua Liendo, Javier Acevedo, Kayla Sanchez and Penny Oleksiak finished 1.23 behind the Australians for silver, and the United States team of Ryan Held, Brooks Curry, Torri Huske and Claire Curzan was third, 1.71 behind.



Katie Ledecky of the United States reacts after the Women 800m Freestyle final at the 19th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

Canada's silver was the country's ninth medal this week, eclipsing the eight it won in Gwangju.

Ben Proud won Britain's first gold of the championships, clinching the men's 50 freestyle in 21.32 – 0.09 ahead of American Michael Andrew and 0.25 ahead of

France's Maxime Grousset. "We're missing quite a few key players in the pool today," Proud said, referring to the absences of Caeleb Dressel, Florent Manaudou and Bruno Fratus. "The whole podium from the Olympics last year wasn't in the final." □

# Weekly SPECIALS



 <p>WAS \$3.02</p> <p>Celery Sleeved</p> <p><b>\$1.59</b> Each</p>	 <p>WAS \$3.99</p> <p>Melon Cantaloupe</p> <p><b>\$2.85</b> Each</p>	 <p>WAS \$12.57</p> <p>Marucha/Top Blade Brasil</p> <p><b>\$9.71</b> Per KG</p>	 <p>WAS \$6.28</p> <p>Kellogg's Corn Flakes 12oz</p> <p><b>\$4.85</b> Each</p>	
 <p>WAS \$5.14</p> <p>Peppers Green</p> <p><b>\$3.42</b> Per KG</p>	 <p>WAS \$7.42</p> <p>Peppers Assorted Colors</p> <p><b>\$5.14</b> Per KG</p>	 <p>WAS \$16.85</p> <p>Entrecanto Brasil</p> <p><b>\$14.85</b> Per KG</p>	 <p>WAS \$7.99</p> <p>Porkchop US Frozen</p> <p><b>\$5.14</b> Per KG</p>	 <p>WAS \$68.57</p> <p>Loinrbs 10KG</p> <p><b>\$68.57</b> Case</p>

## DIARY/FROZEN

 <p>WAS \$7.23</p> <p>Koning Yoghurt Griekse Stijl 1L</p> <p><b>\$5.71</b> Each</p>	 <p>WAS \$7.71</p> <p>Doux Kipnuggets (Halal) 1Kg</p> <p><b>\$6.28</b> Each</p>
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## HBC/GM

 <p>WAS \$1.51</p> <p>Sence Fruit Garden Handzeep Assorted 500ml</p> <p><b>\$1.14</b> Each</p>	 <p>WAS \$12.57</p> <p>Miya Powder Laundry Detergent Lemon 5.5kg</p> <p><b>\$10.28</b> Each</p>
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## DELI/BAKERY

 <p>WAS \$1.71</p> <p>Colby Jack Cheese</p> <p><b>\$1.37</b> 100 GR</p>	 <p>WAS \$0.68</p> <p>Sandwich 45gr (MOLCO)</p> <p><b>\$0.57</b> Each</p>
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